

Message Text

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10
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 301539Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6599
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTRY CHANGES

1. AMONG THE PLETHORA OF SUBCABINET LEVEL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK WERE TWO NEW UNDERSECRETARIES IN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY (GOBERNACION): JOSE MIGUEL ORTI BORDAS AND FELIX HERNANDEZ GIL. HERNANDEZ GIL'S APPOINTMENT, TO THE NEWLY CREATED POST OF UNDERSECRETARY FOR PUBLIC ORDER, REPRESENTS AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT BY THE GOVT TO RATIONALIZE MANAGEMENT OF ITS OWN LAW-ENFORCEMENT APPARATUS. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR PUBLIC ORDER WILL IN-

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CLUDE THE COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DIREC-

TORATE GENERAL OF SECURITY (DGS) AND THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF THE CIVIL GUARD, AS WELL AS THOSE ACTIVITIES OF THE TRAFFIC POLICE WHICH RELATE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER. BRIEF BIO DATA FOLLOWS:

2. JOSE MIGUEL ORTI BORDAS, UNDERSECRETARY OF INTERIOR: ORTI, 38, IS A NATIONAL COUNCILOR OF THE MOVEMENT AND A DEPUTY IN THE CORTES (PARLIAMENT), WHERE HE IS A MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE. HE ALSO IS A MEMBER OF THE CLUB SIGLO XXI, WHERE HE HAS GIVEN WELL-ATTENDED LECTURES, A REGULAR WEEKLY POLITICAL COMMENTATOR FOR SPAIN'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS NEWSPAPER, "LA VANGUARDIA," AND PRESIDENT OF THE STATE-RUN INDUSTRIAL CREDIT BANK.

3. A LAWYER BY PROFESSION, ORTI BEGAN HIS POLITICAL CAREER BY MOVING UP THE RANKS OF THE MOVEMENT'S UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONS, FINALLY BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY "SINDICATO" IN 1964. PREVIOUSLY HE HAD SERVED A BRIEF STINT AS DIRECTOR OF A UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE AND AS DIRECTOR OF SINDICAL STUDIES IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT MOVEMENT. CURRENT CORTES PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ MIRANDA, AT THAT TIME MINISTER OF THE MOVEMENT, NAMED ORTI HIS UNDERSECRETARY IN 1969. IN THAT POST, ORTI ACQUIRED THE REPUTATION OF A FERVENT SUPPORTER OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS, AND HE WAS REMOVED TWO YEARS LATER WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT FRANCO WAS NOT PREPARED TO ALLOW THEM.

4. ORTI IS A RESPONSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT LIBERAL (IN A RECENT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MOVEMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMITTEE, FOR EXAMPLE, HE CAST THE ONLY VOTE AGAINST A RIGHTIST-DRAFTED REPORT CRITICAL OF THE GOVT'S REFORM PROPOSAL). HE IS NOT IDENTIFIED WITH ANY PARTICULAR POLITICAL GROUPING, ALTHOUGH HE IS AN ADMIRER OF FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER FRAGA AND A CLOSE FRIEND OF CURRENT MINISTER MARTIN VILLA. HE HAS OFTEN VOTED WITH THE "INDEPENDENT GROUP" IN THE CORTES, BUT HE IS NOT FORMALLY A MEMBER.. ORTI, A LEADER GRANTEE IN 1974, IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE US. AND FRIENDLY WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS.

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5. FELIX HERNANDEZ GIL, UNDERSECRETARY FOR PUBLIC ORDER: AT THE TIME OF HIS APPOINTMENT TO THIS NEWLY CREATED POST, HERNANDEZ, 52, WAS A PUBLIC ATTORNEY WITH THE SUPREME COURT, PROFESSOR OF CIVIL LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MADRID, AND CHIEF LEGAL ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MOVEMENT (I.E., CURRENT PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ). A HIGHLY RESPECTED PUBLIC ATTORNEY BY PROFESSION, HERNANDEZ

HOLDS A DOCTORATE OF LAWS AND HAS SERVED AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN SALAMANCA AND MADRID.
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